Boat Used to Evacuate Four Village Families

Sandbag Dam; Dynamite Experts Ready for Action

Clearing skies and a sharp drop in temperature to below the freezing mark called a halt to rising Manitowoc County waters and the crest of the flood passed during the supper hour Monday. Within minutes the river level began to fall in both the East and the West Twin Rivers, dropping a matter of nine inches before midnight and then declining rapidly.

Rising flood waters and run-off waters from nearby terrain in the Village of Mishicot may have been indirectly responsible for the death of a pioneer Mishicot resident.

George W. Schmidt, 75, retired business man, was killed in an explosion and fire in his home at noon Monday. A short circuit in a sump pump caused a fire believed to have touched off the explosion in an oil fired furnace adjacent to the sump pump in the basement.

Water had been leaking in increasing volume into the basement and Schmidt went to investigate when the explosion occurred.

Families Evacuated

At Mishicot where volunteers worked early Monday evening to sandbag the wings of the village dam, water had receded from the streets by midnight. Parts of the downtown section were inundated as the river left its banks and began to work on the earth fill protecting the concrete buttments. During the height of the flood the Sportsman's Park was completely inundated with only parts of the buildings showing above the surging water. A concession stand, swept from its foundation by the current, floated against the downstream bridge blocking one of the escape routes of the water and backing the flow

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Four families were evacuated from their homes downstream and Sheriff Alvin Gill, deputies and County Traffic officers answered a call to the Milton Ollendorf home about four miles upstream from Mishicot at 8 p.m. when an ice jam sent the East Twin River over its banks, completely encircling the one story house and endangering the occupants.

County Traffic Men Help

Sheriff Gill, aided by County Traffic officers John Hartl and James Benishek, manned the 14-foot boat and made several trips to the flooded building to remove Ollendorf, his wife and their three children.

Ray Snebeck, a nearby farmer, came with his two sons and a tractor and aided in the rescue by handling guy ropes for the boat.

"The water was deeper than we could reach with an oar and the current so strong that you couldn't even hang onto a tree. The County Traffic men in the boat with us deserve a lot of credit," Gill said.

Still Above Normal

Mishicot waters had dropped about four feet by daybreak but were still better than two feet above normal levels.

"The sewage disposal plant is working again, the lift pumps are in operation and normal drainage has been resumed, Voida Olson, Mishicot businessman and former Manitowoc alderman, said Tuesday morning.

At Shoto, waters reached a critical stage and an ice jam above the dam backed water over the earth fill far to the north of the backwater above the north dam. The water began to spill through an old break and run across the former County Trunk B. The leak was stopped and shortly thereafter the waters began to recede.

Spring Creek at Brillion left its banks during the day Monday and sewers within the city began backing up. The Wieting Funeral Home reported 22 inches of water in the building with an estimated $2 to 3,000 loss in furniture, carpeting and furnishings. There was water damage in the plant of the Brillion News and the Brillion Dairy. Utility employes and firemen got pumpers from Hilbert for pumping basements and sewers and succeeded in keeping flood waters from contaminating the city water supply.

In Manitowoc, boats from the Sheriff's Department were used to evacuate employes of some business firms on the western fringe of the city as water rose to a depth of several feet in the area which

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